Attorney's Docket No.: 09712-032001 / Z-136

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : William A. Shull et al.       Art Unit : 2877
Serial No. : 09/305,808                   Examiner : Hoa T. Lee
Filed       : April 28, 1999
Title       : HELIUIM-NEON LASER LIGHT SOURCE GENERATING TWO
              HARMONICALLY RELATED, SINGLE-FREQUENCY WAVELENGTHS FOR
              USE IN DISPLACEMENT AND DISPERSION MEASURING
              INTERFEROMETRY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

In response to the action dated December 3, 2002, we submit the following remarks.

We acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1-33 are allowed. The remaining claims stand rejected as obvious over Hill (U.S. 6,137,574) in view of Zhang (U.S. 5,019,913).

We thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the case with Applicants' representative Marc Wefers during telephone interviews on February 25, 2003 and February 27, 2003. Following the interviews, the Examiner indicated that he would withdraw the rejection, but asked that we summarize our arguments in a written response. Accordingly, we submit the following.

Of the rejected claims (claims 34-46), claims 34-37 are the independent claims. Among other features, independent claims 34 and 35 each recite "a Helium-Neon laser light source that generates two harmonically related, single frequency output beams" (emphasis added). Similarly, independent claims 36 and 37 each recite "providing two harmonically related, single-frequency output beams from a Helium-Neon laser light source" (emphasis added).

The action rejected independent claims 34-37 as obvious over Hill (U.S. 6,137,574) in view of Zhang (U.S. 5,019,913). The action concedes that "Hill does not show that the laser

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